

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024665
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:CMONROE:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
-----097950 310812Z/11

R 310209Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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STADIS//////////
FOR THEROS FROM NEA/ARN: MONROE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS FAIR FINANCING

REF: DAMASCUS 380

1. IN CHECKING WITH COMMERCE/CAGNE, NEA/ARN (MONROE) LEARNED FOLLOWING: FIRST, THAT CAGNE ESTIMATES TOTAL OVERSEAS COSTS OF 1978 PARTICIPATION IN DAMASCUS FAIR AT DOLS 98,900. OF THIS AMOUNT, COMMERCE WILL PAY FOR DOLS 8,600, AND THE REMAINING BALANCE OF DOLS 90,300 TO COME FROM EXHIBITORS CONTRIBUTIONS. TOTAL COSTS OF FAIR ARE ESTIMATED AT DOLS 140,000, WHICH INCLUDES SUCH THINGS AS SUPPORT COSTS FOR FAIR MANAGER AND FISCAL ASSISTANT.

2. SECOND, COMMERCE IS COUNTING ON POST TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT PARTICIPATION SO AS TO ENSURE RECEIPT OF DOLS 90,300 FROM EXHIBITORS CONTRIBUTIONS. IF THIS AMOUNT

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PAGE 02 STATE 024665

IS NOT MET IN FACT, COMMERCE WILL THEN EXAMINE QUESTION OF HOW TO FINANCE BALANCE. (THIS DOES NOT ASSUME THAT COMMERCE WILL IN FACT PICK UP TAB.)

3. THIRD, COMMERCE IS, OF COURSE, PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT U.S. WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN 1978 FAIR, THUS DEFERRING QUESTION OF HOW TO FUND POTENTIAL UNFINANCED GAP

UNTIL IT OCCURS (IF IT OCCURS). THE BUDGET AUTHORIZATION FOR OVERSEAS COSTS IS THERE, BUT CAGNE DOES NOT EXPECT POST TO OBLIGATE MORE THAN DOLS 35,000 PRIOR TO APRIL. THUS USDOC 207 SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS COMMERCE GIFT OF DOLS 97,000 TOWARD FAIR. NEA/ARN URGES PROMPT RESPONSE TO COMMUNIQUE OF JANUARY 4 TO AMBASSADOR. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE024665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CMONROE:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-0833
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978013/aaaaabxx.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18e9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 380
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3724575
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAMASCUS FAIR FINANCING
TAGS: BEXP, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18e9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014